

REMARKS

Claims 13-19 are pending in the present Application. Claims 13-19 are currently amended. No new matter is being introduced into the application by way of this amendment. Claim 13 has been amended to become independent, incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim 12, and claim 12 has been canceled. The remaining claims have been amended merely to correct the dependencies. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 12 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over WO 00/52062. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner indicates at page 4 of the Office Action, that claim 13 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Accordingly, claim 13 is currently amended to be independent, and claims 14-19 are currently amended to now depend upon claim 13. The Applicants thus believe that all of the remaining issues are addressed by this amendment, and that this Application now stands in condition for Allowance.

An early reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

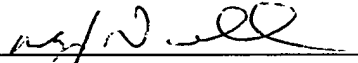
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact J. Mark Konieczny (Reg. No. 47,715) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Mark J. Duell, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 36,623

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

J.M.K.